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Best books of 2022

See HCPL's best reads of last year on page 2.

Making it to the big screen

Read about Jerelyn Craden's recent accomplishment on page 8.

A raven comes in for a landing.
/Submitted by Tammy Nash

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The best of 2022, as chosen by our readers

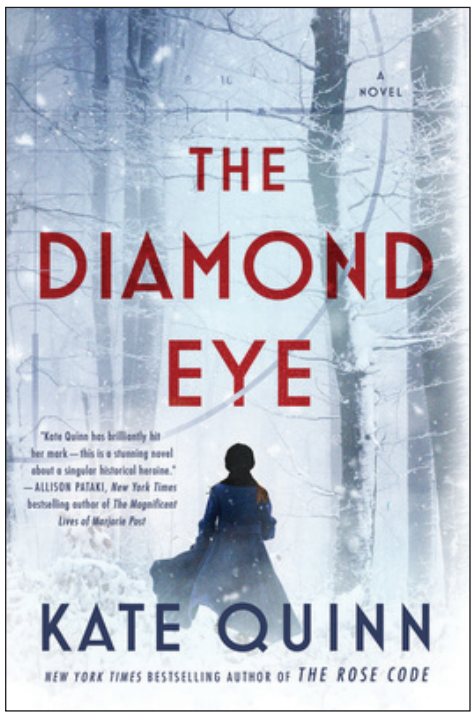
CHRIS STEPHENSON
Special to *County Life*

In my role as a Library CEO, I spend a lot of time writing: reports, letters, promotions, and thank-you cards. So, it's natural that by the new year, my mind turns to what I've read and enjoyed throughout the previous year. Here at Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL), we love to review and discuss data. It tells us so much about who uses the library, what they care about, and what's popular on our shelves. And best of all, it helps us make decisions about how we spend our book-purchasing resources in future.

If there's a book in our catalogue that you're interested in, you can place a 'hold' and reserve it with your library card. That way you're automatically included on a waiting list to receive this title once the people ahead of you have received it, read it, and returned it. Once it's your turn, you'll be notified that the book is ready for pick-up. But what happens when a book becomes popular? Perhaps a great newspaper review promotes it, or the author comes to our area to speak about it. Or it becomes a best-seller and is made into a film. We're able to use our data to gauge this popularity and make a timely decision to purchase additional copies to satisfy the demand. It may be another print copy, an eBook or an audiobook, or a large print version.

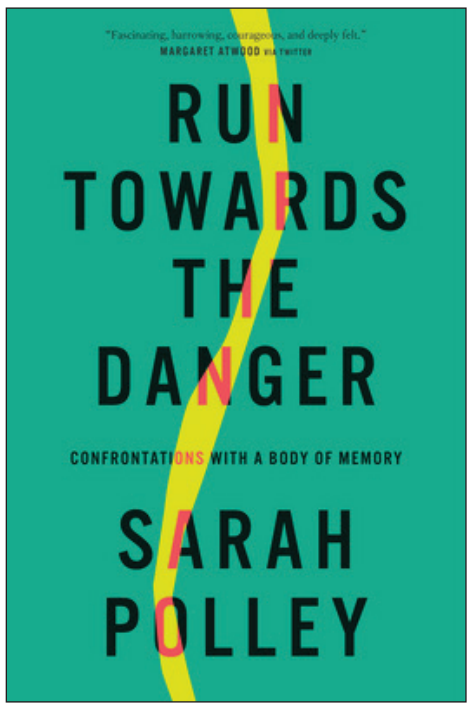
Responding to reader interest is what helps shape our collection. The purchases we make are determined by the collection development coordinator of course, but also recommendations from our book vendors, great reviews, and suggestions from our patrons. If there's an item you want to borrow that isn't available at HCPL, you can submit a material request. We have a form for this on our website at www.haliburtonlibrary.ca under the 'Borrowing' tab. Our staff will do their best to borrow the item from another system in Ontario or purchase the title for our own collection. You're also able to make your request whenever you stop in at one of our branches – the only request is that we ask you to limit your recommendations to a total of five per month.

OK, so here I am filling the page with my writing again! It's time to get to the part I expect we're all most interested in: What were the most popular books borrowed from HCPL throughout 2022? Thanks again to the data, we're able to provide you with these lists:


A NOVEL
THE DIAMOND EYE
"Kate Quinn has brilliantly hit her mark — this is a stunning novel about a singular historical heroine."
— ALLISON PATAKI, New York Times bestselling author of The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post
KATE QUINN
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE ROSE CODE

The top 10 adult fiction borrowed

1 *The Diamond Eye*, by Kate Quinn
2. *The Maid*, by Nita Prose
3. *Dream Town*, by David Baldacci
4. *Take Your Breath Way*, by Linwood Barclay
5. *The 6:20 Man*, by David Baldacci
6. *Sparring Partners: Jake Brigance, Book 4*, by John Grisham
7. *The Paris Apartment*, by Lucy Foley
8. *The Match*, by Harlan Coben
9. *Death of the Black Widow*, by James Patterson & J.D. Barker
10. *Abandoned in Death*, by J.D. Robb


"Fascinating, harrowing, courageous, and deeply felt."
MARGARET ATWOOD VIA TWITTER
RUN TOWARDS THE DANGER
CONFRONTATIONS WITH A BODY OF MEMORY
SARAH POLLEY

The top 10 adult non-fiction borrowed

1. *Run Towards the Danger: Confrontations with a Body of Memory*, by Sarah Polley
2. *The Palace Papers* - Inside the House of Windsor: The Truth & the Turmoil, by Tina Brown
3. *Stories I Might Regret Telling You: A Memoir*, by Martha Wainwright
4. *Where You End and I Begin: A Memoir*, by Leah McLaren
5. *The Simple Comforts Step-by-step Instant Pot Cookbook*, by Jeffrey Eisener
6. *Enough Already: Learning to Love the Way I Am Today*, Valerie Bertinelli
7. *Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole*, by Susan Cain
8. *This Is Assisted Dying: A Doctor's Story of Empowering Patients at the End of Life*, by Stefanie Green
9. *Scoundrel: How A Convicted Murderer Persuaded the Women Who Loved Him, the Conservative Establishment, and the Courts to Set Him Free*, by Sarah Weinman
10. *James Patterson: The Stories of My Life*, by James Patterson

The top 10 chapter books and picture books

1. *5-minute Marvel Stories*, edited by Marvel Press
2. *Pretty Perfect Kitty-corn*, by Shannon Hale & LeUyen Pham
3. *Baby-sitters Little Sister - Book 5*, Karen›s School Picture, by Katy Farina
4. *The Digger & the Duckling*, by Joseph Kuefler
5. *The Tower of Time*, by Lincoln Peirce
6. *Powwow Day*, by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight
7. *Cat Kid Comic Club: On Purpose*, by Dav Pilkey
8. *Ada Twist, Scientist: Show Me the Bunny*, by Gabrielle Meyer
9. *Princess Charming*, by Zibby Owens, illustrated by Holly Hatam
10. *I Love You Like Yellow*, by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by Vashti Harrison

If you're looking for something new to read in the new year, you may want to clip these lists out and keep them handy. Thanks to all the patrons and visitors who supported their local public library in 2022. We hope you found what you were looking for or consulted one of our staff members in your search to find the right items. And most of all, happy reading this year!

County Life

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

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Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *
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Small and mighty: The Haliburton music scene

LAUREN PHILLIPS

The Haliburton County Folk Society

The Haliburton music scene, though small, is quite mighty, at least from my somewhat outside perspective.

I moved to the county on Halloween of 2020. Previously to this, I lived in Victoria and Quadra Island, BC, where I was consumed by the vibrant and thriving music and arts scenes. As an amateur, and "wannabe musician," there was always so much to do and see.

I quickly made friends with the folk punk kids busking on the street in downtown Victoria and found that someone's band was always playing somewhere. The punk scene in Victoria is something to behold, and nothing really compares to the up-and-coming folk singers living off-grid in small island cabins and boats.

Though the music scene here in Haliburton is different from what you might find out west, in a small artsy community or in a bustling city, it is still something to brim with gratitude about; and I do.

It is so wonderful to be surrounded by such a supportive community, and I truly feel like you can go quite far here if you have the time to devote to your craft.

Unfortunately, I work too many jobs to really focus on music, but I have immensely enjoyed attending the monthly open mics and playing with friends around bonfires.

It seems like there is always something going on here, whether it's a local legend like Albert Saxby playing his soulful and witty originals, or some big name like William Prince, great music finds its way here thanks to the Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS). Just this past summer, friends and I got to see My Son The Hurricane at Abbey Gardens which was an incredible, live performance that had most people jumping out of their seats and dancing to.

The HCFS truly works hard to bring a variety of different acts to town all the while supporting local musicians by holding monthly open mics at the Haliburton Legion. I feel really grateful to live in such a relatively remote community and still have access to such great music!

I never really feel bored, and if I do, I know I should be spending that time working on my own material.

I would feel amiss if I didn't give a shout out to Penny at Canoe FM who makes it her mission to support local music every Monday night on her radio show, Locally Sourced, by having local artists live in studio. Canoe FM is also supporting local musicians by offering free in-studio recording sessions; which is such a sweet resource for anyone interested in recording music.

I have taken advantage of this, and it was a wonderful experience. I do feel like bars and restaurants could be doing more to bring more live music here, but that's another issue for another day.

All in all, I'm just happy to have friends to jam with and a place to sing my songs and call home! Oh, and I'm looking forward to the Terra Lightfoot show on Jan. 28! You can get tickets online at Haliburtonfolk.com.

Cold evenings
A frosty sunset in Head Lake Park in Haliburton. /ADAM FRISK Special to *County Life*

Legion Events

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge every Monday at 1 p.m. Schofield Room.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays:
Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall.
Bingo doors open at 6 p.m.
Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500 Jackpot
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
Saturdays: 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call the Legion today at 705-457-2571, email rcll129@outlook.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Monday to Thursday Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & chips & wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Meat draws at 11:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly Activities:
Karaoke every second Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week
Tuesday: Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Schedules are subject to change without notice, so contact each Legion for updates.

Wilberforce

Jan 5: 2 to 6 p.m.
Jan 6: 2 to 6 p.m. Pool 2 p.m.
Fish & chips, chicken fingers & fries, 5 to 8 p.m.
Jan 7: 2 to 6 p.m. Meat draw 3pm
Jan 8: LA Breakfast 9 to 11a.m.
Jan 9: Closed
Jan 10: General Meeting 7pm
Jan 11: 2 to 6 p.m. Darts 2pm
Everyone welcome!!
If you are planning a function for social or other event providing our guidelines/conditions are met, please feel free to contact us at 705-448-2221.
Friday dinners are in jeopardy due to lack of volunteers. Janice S needs to step back so if interested please reach out ASAP to help. Young people come out and show the elders how it's done!!

Colour of the year for 2023
Raspberry Blush - a saturated red-orange
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Writing on the Senior Side

It's not really a New Year's resolution

GAIL STELTER
Special to *County Life*

Oh, January: New Year's resolutions. No, that is not happening! I don't make New Year's resolutions; never have. Not that doing so is not a good thing. It's just not me. I know what you are thinking, and you are so right. The resolution I should make is not fun and is likely to be unsuccessful. I am too old to set myself up for failure, so forget that. Instead, I will choose one or two things that I already do and like to do and call them not-really-a-New-Year's resolution. Success will be coming my way!

He was two years old, and he would dance around in circles to the beat of the music, and with a slight tilt of his head, he never got dizzy. Now he is forty-three years old, and he still can dance circles around us. He has the dancing gene!

It was New Year's Eve, and we had been married just a year. We had three couples over to our apartment, and my parents dropped by. How nice was that? We put on our music; Beatles music, and they danced. They danced the jitterbug and the swing. He mostly just directed her, and she did all the moves. They danced as one with ease; with grace and bounce and speed and with smiles from ear to ear. They loved to dance. They were great dancers. It was no surprise when I leaned they met in 1939 at a Toronto dance hall.

Well, I love to dance, too. Arthritis put a halt to dancing for a long time, but new titanium knees are changing all that. When I had one knee transplant accomplished, and was psyching myself up for the second one, a friend asked, or rather stated with some misgiving, "You're going to go through that again?"

"I have to. I still can't dance, and I want to dance."

I have the dancing gene: not ballet, not jazz, not line dancing. Just give me good old fashioned 50s and 60s dance music. I did try some one-titanium-knee line dancing. It was fun. The ladies and the instructor were so welcoming and understanding. *Boot Scootin' Boogie* became my line dance song, and I even did it at home and with my granddaughters. I think that maybe I should go back to line but, in all honesty, I could never remember the steps to other line dances. I need my music.

I always say that swimming is the only exercise I like. Once someone gave me a Garfield poster that said, "I might as well exercise. I'm in a bad mood anyway." I am far from perfect. You knew that, didn't you? I am telling you this so it will be very clear to you that dancing is not exercise.

I am grabbing all the dancing moments. We were in Kingston this past spring for our son's gig. We danced all night long while he sang and played guitar with his band. And just look at his brother and sister rocking it on the dance floor! All my children received the dancing gene. I know they got it from my parents and from me. It is a legacy of sorts. Thank goodness I can give them this! I wonder if they realize what a special legacy it is.

That's it! Number one not-really-a-New-Year's resolution is that I will dance to one of my songs everyday for the rest of the year. I like this not-really-a-New-Year's resolution. It is so me, so doable and so much fun. Senior-hood needs to include lots of fun! It needs to be fun with friends and family, or even just when we are by ourselves. It needs to be so much fun that we forget, even for a short time, about all the aches and pains of aging. It needs to be authentic, and it helps if it is inexpensive too. What will you do this year for fun?

Wow, I just had another idea for grabbing the dancing moments. What if I start a 50s-60s dance time (I refuse to call it exercise) once a week for one hour, through our recreation department? Would any of you come? Maybe, we should start with just a half an hour. We are a little old, after all. We could take a coffee break midway. In my world, a little coffee always helps. Oh what fun it would be to do the mashed potato, the stroll, the twist, the pony and more!

I think you may have already figured out what number two not-really-a-New Year's resolution will be. It meets all my self-imposed criteria. I sang in the kitchen with my mom while we did the dishes, and she taught me some interesting takes of songs from her era. I sang in the car with my dad, every single time we were in the car. We sang our Kennedy family ditties, and we sang along with 1050 CHUM radio. I sang all the time with everyone and no one, and not one of them told me that I don't sing very well. I even sang in the church choir. Now I know why the choir director always put me beside someone who had and strong voice and could carry a tune. Now I know why, at Christmas, I sang alto.

My dad told me when he was in school, he was told not to sing but just to mouth the words. So, I found out as an adult that my mom and brother got the singing gene, and I missed out. So glad they didn't tell me. I sang, and I sing, and I am a singer. You don't have to be good at everything you do to enjoy it. I suppose the true talented singers might disagree with this. Maybe I should just listen and mouth the words when they sing. No, I will just sing very quietly! I will sing every day this year. I will sing along to my music. I will sing with Bobby Vinton, the Beatles and Skeeter Davis. I will sing with Bob Dylan, Joan Biaz and Peter, Paul and Mary. I will sing with Elvis, Buddy Holly and the Everley Brothers. I could go on and on, and I will sing out with joy. And, of course, if we get our 50s-60s dance time (I refuse to call it exercise) up and running we will sing while we dance!

I understand that some or maybe many of you may think my not-really-a-New-Year's resolutions trivial. That's OK. On the senior side, each one of us should feel good with our own unique not-really-a-New-Year's resolution. It is never trivial when it is your choice; your personal path to grabbing moments of joy and fun!

Happy New Year! May you choose a not-really-a-New-Year's resolution. I hope you sing, and dance, too!

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Tuesday, Jan. 24 @ 7:30 p.m.
vs Mississauga Chargers

Saturday, Jan. 28 @ 4:00 p.m.
vs Wellington Dukes

For more more information please visit our website

Filling hearts with music

Over 400 guests attended the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Christmas concert on Wednesday, Dec. 21. The show featured songs, dances, skits, and videos made by the teachers and students of ASES. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

An ASES class of reindeer waves to the crow during their holiday concert.

The Grinch made an appearance.

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Advocacy: A powerful tool for change

FOR SOME people, particularly for those at the beginning of their journey, the word "advocacy" can sound intimidating. This is because the roots of advocacy come from others before you who have stood up for themselves or their loved ones on issues that bring up strong emotions, and can have strong implications if left unchecked.

Advocacy is the act of promoting and defending an individual's rights, needs and interests. Some individuals including children and those with mental health concerns or disabilities may not be able to defend their own rights and needs. An advocate is needed in these cases to either act as the individual's voice or to amplify their voice so that they can be effectively heard.

According to Children's Mental Health Ontario (CMHO), caregivers' fierce commitment to their children's wellbeing and their unique position to make a difference for their child often make them the perfect advocate. Caregivers have spent years with their children getting to know their strengths, challenges, and interests, and developing valuable insights into how to make things better and help amplify their voice.

An adult may need to act as an advocate for a child in a number of different environments including school, daycare, home or within the health care system. An advocate may be needed where there is a perceived risk of harm or where a child's rights or needs are not being met. Advocacy is often needed in relation to a concern about accessibility or equity, and involves recommending accommodations that will allow a child to have their rights and needs met. For example, for a child who frequently experiences episodes of anxiety, having access to a safe and quiet place could be considered a need as fundamental for this child as access to the washroom.

For caregivers at the beginning of their journey, CMHO says connecting with other caregivers in a similar situation is an important first step. Finding out what worked, what didn't, and what kind of questions to ask first can help you feel prepared for some of the conversations you will have.

Another important strategy, and one that requires more time and focus, is trying to understand the systems your family is involved with – which could include mental health, disability, education or other - and how they connect with other systems. This can sometimes be complicated in Ontario. Talking to an experienced professional who works in the system(s) you family is involved with, understands your rights, and who can help 'connect the dots' can help kickstart your inquiries in the right direction.

Finally, CMHO recommends keeping your advocacy process as organized as possible by keeping detailed sets of records that you can refer to when needed. Write down as much as you can. Your records may include a directory of key contacts; copies of medical reports; report cards; symptom and treatment notes; meeting and phone call notes; individual education plans; and any other types of information considered newsworthy or relevant.

"Advocacy can make a profound difference in a child's life and can help foster an environment that will allow them to flourish," said Meghan Chouinard, child, youth and family therapist at Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents in Haliburton. "With advocacy, a child can gain access to the school resources they need to be successful. With advocacy, a child can receive referrals to pediatricians or psychologists who can create specialized treatment plans or prescribe needed medications. With advocacy, a caregiver can ensure that a child has the necessary resources and accommodations that will allow them to be successful and have their needs met."

If you'd like to speak to someone about how to better advocate for a child, email info@pointintime.ca or call (705) 457-5345.

Submitted by Point in Time Staff

Top 10 positive thoughts to carry into winter

WINTER IS not everyone's favourite time of year. I happen to think a lot of that has to do with attitude. With that in mind, I've come up with 10 positive thoughts to can carry you through winter. Use them at your own risk.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. It could be worse. I could have spent $99 US dollars on a Trump trading card.
2. Sure, the snow is neck deep, but I'm not that tall.
3. Finally, my winter tires are earning their keep.
4. Winter thaws always come. My tongue will not be stuck to this metal pole forever.
5. It's cold, but at least I'm not a brass monkey.
6. Finally, I can put my bear bells away.
7. If my car dies, I can always use the dog and my ice fishing sled.
8. Who needs to pay for cryogenics?
9. Fingerprints don't last long on snowballs.
10. With all these red noses, no one will ever suspect I've been drinking.

In-between

Snow swallowing the lunar glow of Sun,
blurring the border between land and Sky, as I peer out the window at the smear of trees,
their limbs, bandaged in a gauze of Snow, the bus lurching along the narrowing road,
leading us back to the stillness of hills, slumbering beneath the quiet of Sky,
leaving the concrete forest behind, its claustrophobia replaced by a cocoon of peace,
as I bask in this bliss of neither Here nor There, motionless, yet moving at the same time,
my thoughts blotted by what my eyes see, bare trees hunching along the side of the road,
their branches bearing the burden of Snow.
Beyond them, fields, stretching towards the seamless Sky,
my bleary eyes bathed in the blankness of Snow, a balm for my spirit, that sometimes wilts this time of year,
squishing in so many things, it can barely breathe, my body, loosening, as it floats in this fleeting In-Between,
my chest expanding, wide as Sky, as the bleakness of the landscape I leave behind,
is replaced with the unsullied beauty of Snow, the farther we go, the denser the trees,
springing from the side of the road, pine boughs, drooping, stiffened by Snow,
dripping like candle wax from the tiers of their branches,
beyond them, the forest, that I can't see, but the feeling swelling inside me,
of clomping through pillows of Snow, amongst the trees, the quiet, so loud, I hear my Breath, breathe.
How much longer, 'till we're there, never growing out of asking this question, as I fidget in my seat,
my soul, growing restless, craving fresh Air and a star-speckled Sky,
as I stare out the window at an expanse of frozen Lake, lights twinkling on the other side,
strung up in the matchsticks of trees.
How I savour the brief reprieve of this In-Between,
glancing at the stranger sitting beside me, staring down at his screen,
wondering whether he's coming for a visit or going Home, to the hills and Lakes and forests,
cloaked in quiet and Snow.
It never feels the same, or takes as long, going back,
the neither Here nor Thereness, sullied by the knowing of what hovers ahead,
the trees , growing sparser, Sky so cluttered with highrises, they squish all the stars.
But I won't think about that now, I'll just think about Now,
as the bus rounds the bend, for its final stretch down the road,
the thickness of trees, and their fur of Snow, as I peer out the window, whispering a secret Hello,
listening to my Breath, breathe, the stranger beside me, turning off his screen,
to stare at the landscape luring him back, for a visit, or coming Home.

Sylvie Kalenda

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A familiar face lights up the screen

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Staff

Jerelyn Craden of Haliburton currently has a role in a nation-wide Canadian Tire ad. In it, Craden plays a neighbour who has a competitive flair for Christmas. /PHOTO SUBMITTED

It's lights, camera, action for Haliburton Highlands local, Jerelyn Craden, who just appeared in a prominent spot for a Canadian Tire ad that is currently being broadcast across the country.

While Craden is no stranger to the stage, having acted, sung, danced, and performed in front of audiences for decades, this was her first time in front of a camera in many years. "It's not my first commercial, I've been doing this kind of stuff for many, many years," said Craden, "but since COVID, it was my first time really getting in front of a camera again."

The pandemic slowed down Craden's performative artistic endeavours for a few years, but that did not stall her with other art forms. "My first loves were always writing and singing, and I've been able to continue that," she said.

When the opportunity to be in the commercial presented itself, Craden didn't skip a beat. She noted that with COVID-19 still lingering, instead of entering studios for auditions, production companies were requesting "self-takes," which Craden was able to take and submit via her phone. Upon submission, she received a call-back via Zoom with the director, where she worked through a series of lines.

"And then you wait," Craden laughed, "and if they are interested, they'll contact your agent."

She noted that she has been working with the same agent for 40 years, and she is grateful that they are both professional colleagues, and friends.

Once Craden was confirmed with the spot, she went on to start shooting. The commercial was filmed over the course of two days in Etobicoke. "They were two very, very long days. One day we started shooting at 11:30 in the morning, and we didn't wrap up until 2:30 a.m." she recalled.

Craden noted that there was an "army" of people working on the shoot, including crane operators, grips, tech crews, and over 20 extras. She said she has a huge appreciation for all the moving pieces on a set, and how much time, energy, and effort goes into any sort of filming.

The commercial aired on Nov. 7 on all channels, and Craden said that the best part is not seeing the spot on television, but rather, connecting with people in the community over the ad. "It just puts the biggest smile on my face to hear how people respond," she said. Craden says that she has heard from friends and family, coast to coast in Canada, reaching out to her and celebrating her spot on television. After years of limited connection, the opportunity to share the small-town pride is a breath of fresh air.

Craden noted that she considers herself a "homebody" these days, but would love the opportunity to act in another commercial in the new year. "This one kind of came out of the blue, but I am just so glad I did it," she said.

You can see Craden in the holiday Canadian Tire commercial airing until Christmas on all Canadian television networks.

Announcing the Highlands Opera Studio 2023 season

Join us for the 17th season of Highlands Opera Studio (HOS). Highlights include Gaetano Donizetti's hilarious opera sitcom, *The Elixir Of Love* (*l'Elisir d'Amore*) and the return of *Mishabooz's Realm*, an Indigenous opera inspired by and written in Haliburton County by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour, originally produced and presented in 2017 by HOS in collaboration with l'Atelier lyrique de l'Opera de Montreal. This powerful and important work, commissioned by HOS in the same year, was supported in its initial creation and premiere presentations in Haliburton and Montreal by the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

Richard Margison Master Classes
Jul. 27, 28, 29, 7:30 p.m.
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

Hear the 2023 HOS professional singers sing for our Artistic Director and Master Voice Teacher, Richard Margison, O.C., and listen in on what makes great singing even better.

Concerts:

Opera to Broadway, Aug. 3, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church.

Celebrations!, Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, featuring music marking important musical anniversaries and achievements.

Pop Goes the Opera, Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, featuring great operatic & musical theatre selections including music of Giuseppe Verdi marking the 210th anniversary of his birth

Homecoming!, Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church. Welcome past HOS participants in an evening of reminiscence and great singing.

Operas:

Mishabooz's Realm, Aug. 17, 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton. Experience this powerful and moving work combining opera with Indigenous singers and instrumentalists, created for HOS by Cree First Nation composer/creator, Andrew Balfour. *Mishabooz's Realm* takes us on a journey from an Indigenous perspective through Creation, Colonization, and ultimately Hope for the Future.

The Elixir of Love (l'Elisir d'Amore), Aug. 24, 26, 28, at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Northern Lights Pavilion. One of the best loved – and most regularly performed – of all Donizetti's operas, this two-act romantic comedy follows the fortunes of poor villager, Nemorino, who is in love with wealthy, beautiful heiress, Adina. A hilarious sitcom for all ages! (In Italian, with English subtitles) This production is dedicated to the memory of Craig Saunders.

Events:

Why Choose Opera?, Jul. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Abbey Gardens Performance Tent. Hear the 2023 participants sing their personal favourite music – other than opera – and talk about what brought them to opera.

Music on the Water, Aug.12 at 6 p.m. Launch your boat on a lake TBD in Haliburton County for a beach concert of opera, musical theatre, and pop! Want it to be your lake? CONTACT US! info@highlandsoperastudio.com

Casual Song Soiree, Aug.14 at 7:30 p.m. at St.George's Anglican Church for an evening featuring songs of all kinds in a relaxed atmosphere.

"As we prepare for the 17th season of Highlands Opera Studio, we are excited to be working on new and creative ways to share and celebrate the beauty of the un-amplified human voice with Haliburton County through Pay-What-You-Can Community Events, online singing lessons through the Highlands Opera Community School, our newly established year round Opera Club, multiple concerts & masterclasses, and two fully staged-operas. Not only will we be offering a Full Live 2023 Summer Season featuring Canada's most accomplished young professional operatic artists but, through the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we will be offering digital viewing options and special community events for our 2023 ticket holders. Join us to listen, learn, reawaken your senses, and celebrate together. Looking forward to seeing you at the opera," said Valerie Kuinka, General Director and Co-Artistic Director and Richard Margison, co-artistic director of Highlands Opera Studio.

Highlands Opera Studio is extremely grateful for the financial support of the Ontario Trilllium Foundation (OTF), RBC Foundation, BMO Financial Group, Azrieli Foundation, and Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), along with a generous bequest from the estate of Madame la Juge, Anne-Marie Trahan, and our greatly appreciated community of private donors and sponsors . To purchase tickets and for more information on all HOS activities, please visit www.highlandsoperastudio.com, there is greatly reduced holiday pricing until Jan. 20. For more information, contact HOS Box Office manager and Opera Club director, Corina Mansfield at info@highlandsoperastudio.com or call 1-855-455-5533.

Submitted

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Trapper's Workshop

When: Sunday Jan. 15
Where: Lloyd Watson Community Centre in Wilberforce.
9 a.m. 3 p.m.
Admission is $2, everyone is welcome! Non-perishable food donations will be gratefully accepted for the Central Food Network. For more information contact Minden District Fur Harvesters, Ted Nottage, 705-448-2877

Haliburton Highlands Writer's and editor's Network

When: HHWEN regular meeting the third Thursday of every month. Starting Dec. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Minden Library, Rotary Room, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden.
Gather and meet members, read stories, general news.
Contact Kay Millard,Secretary HHWEN, 705-286-6635

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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email vivian@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A doe collects snow on her fur coat during a heavy snowfall. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A Barred Owl blends in with its surroundings. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A chickadee searches for food. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A squirrel fills up during a snowfall. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

An inquisitive raven checks its surroundings after landing in fresh snow. / Submitted by Tammy Nash

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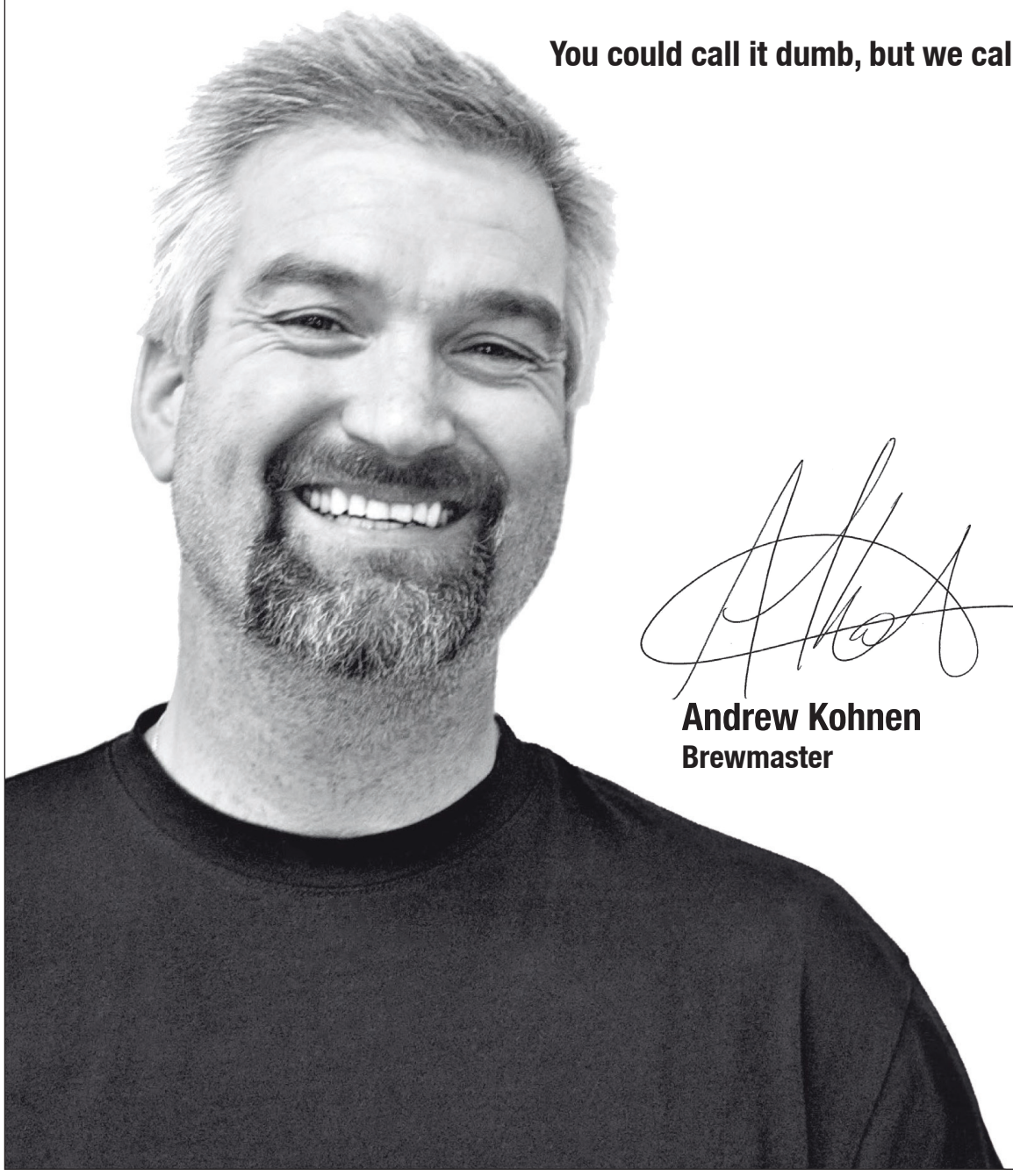

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A MERRY VISITOR: Haliburton's main street was jammed with spectators who turned out to welcome Santa Claus to the village on Sunday afternoon. He was preceeded by colourful floats and two pipe bands. Afterwards, he met local children to hear their Christmas wishes. For more on the parade, see page 13

Haliburton by-pass idea gets mixed reaction

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

• Close Haliburton's main street to traffic during the peak hours of 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. so shoppers can have free reign.

• Buy all the houses on the south side of Mountain Street between Cedar Avenue and 121 and turn it into a new back access to main street stores.

• Move the Rails' End Gallery and turn York Street into a better access onto Maple Avenue/Hwy 118.

• Build a multi-level parking lot on a back street, remove parking from the main street and replace the parking metres with planters.

• Build a toll road through Glebe Park and charge $2 a trip.

• Charge truckers a toll every time they want to use a new by-pass route.

• Forget new roads – the best way to attract new businesses is by lowering commercial tax rates.

• Spend the $300,000 it would cost for a by-pass on infrastructure improvements to the main street, such as burying hydro lines.

Last Wednesday night, Dysart's economic development committee sought ideas on how to ease Haliburton village's traffic congestion problems. Ideas they got by the dozen at the public meeting at the community centre. Close to 80 people gathered to critique the committee's suggestion of building a by-pass from Industrial Park Road to Hwy 118 at the Eagle Lake turn-off.

While many in the crowd were against the by-pass, it did have its adherents.

See **Some fear** *page 5*

Glebe Park seen as best site for new Sir Sandford campus

MENNO MEIJER
Staff Reporter

It makes good economic sense, and it would be an ideal drawing card for the community. The only question is if Haliburton residents want park land turned into a campus for Sir Sandford Fleming College.

At a recent meeting of Dysart et al council, a motion was put forward to turn over Glebe Park on the north side of Head Lake to the college to build a much needed campus.

A public meeting, scheduled for Dec. 6 to discuss rezoning the property, will be used to gauge whether residents agree.

Concerns which need to be addressed, says Dysart's planner Pat Martin, are how to allow the handover without jeopardizing the current uses of the property as a recreational facility.

Peter Brogden, president of the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Ski Club, does not anticipate any problems with the proposal as long as there is co-operation with groups currently using the property.

"We really would like to work with them so any changes are to our mutual benefit," he says. "If they can help us have some washrooms for our skiers that's great. What we don't want is for them to put parking lots on all of our trails."

The club has approximately 10 kilometres of ski trails on the property which also serves as a trail head for another trail which leads to PineStone resort.

In the last two years, high school skiing championships brought in more than 700 skiers one year and nearly 600 last year. This winter the Ontario universities will hold their finals here, which will bring in 100-150 more skiers, said Brogden.

"The idea is to show them we have something available for them," said Brogden about the possible return of some of the

See **Existing trails** *page 10*

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In 2022, the Baumgartner Realty Group had the pleasure of assisting 99 families in purchasing or selling their property.

Thank you to our valued clients for putting your trust in us.

From our home to yours, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Nicole P. Barb Linda Rosemarie
Nicole Baxter Karen Stef Nicole B.

Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
(705) 457.3461
contact@haliburtonrealestate.on.ca
www.haliburtonrealestate.on.ca

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